our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Summer 1991

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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COVER:

Summer is a safe and serene time for indoor cats — see tick threat article on page 12.

Photo by Katrina Pease of Wellesley

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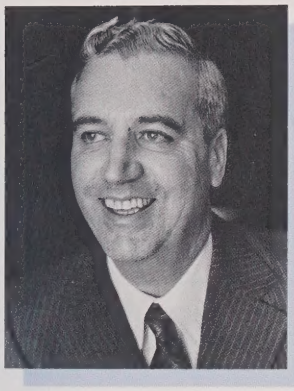


Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MOCK BULLFIGHTS: A NEW HUMANE ARENA

One of the oldest, most revolting and violent forms of cruelty still continues unabated in many areas of the world. I speak of the so-called exhibition of bullfights. It has strong support in a number of cultures and is thought of in various ways from a "sport" to being part of an actual ritual. It should be pointed out, however, that bullfights are not part of any religious ritual known to this writer. Thus it can not be claimed that the people conducting such exhibitions are protected under any right of religious freedom in the United States.

I mention all of these facts because most people think of bullfights as happening in foreign countries where the bull is killed in the bullfight ring after much torment and torture. This is true and for most of our history in the United States we do not think of such barbaric events taking place here.

My special concern at this time is the growing interest in our country (including Massachusetts) in the so-called mock or bloodless bullfights. The bulls are not actually killed by a matador, but instead are released into a ring on a long rope where either a so-called matador or a group of people taunt, harass, incite and torment the helpless bull to "perform" for the crowd.

It seems to me that there can be little question that such an activity is cruel and abusive treatment of an animal. It has also been my belief that most anti-cruelty laws, including ours, prohibit such events as cruel treatment. I think there is little question of this in the foreign version where the bull is actually tortured and killed. However, there has been some question from a legal viewpoint when it comes to the "mock or bloodless bullfights" and this has led to more and more of them being considered and held in this country.

To deal with this issue, we are strongly supporting a bill in the Massachusetts Legislature which clearly prohibits such an activity. It is House Bill 1579 and it provides the following amendment to our anti-cruelty law:

> *It shall be unlawful for any person to promote, advertise, stage, hold, manage, conduct, participate in, engage in, or carry on any bullfight, any mock bullfight, any bloodless bullfight contest or exhibition, or any similar contest or exhibition, whether for amusement or gain or otherwise. Whoever violates the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.*

Please write to the Senate and House Chairman, Senator Robert A. Durand and Representative Steven Angelo, of the Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture and urge that their Committee report the bill favorably to the Legislature for passage. You should also contact your own state Senator and Representative. They may be reached at the State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133.

Thank you for any support you can give to this legislation.

WSPA's Priscilla McMullen accepts Certificate of Appreciation on John Walsh's behalf.

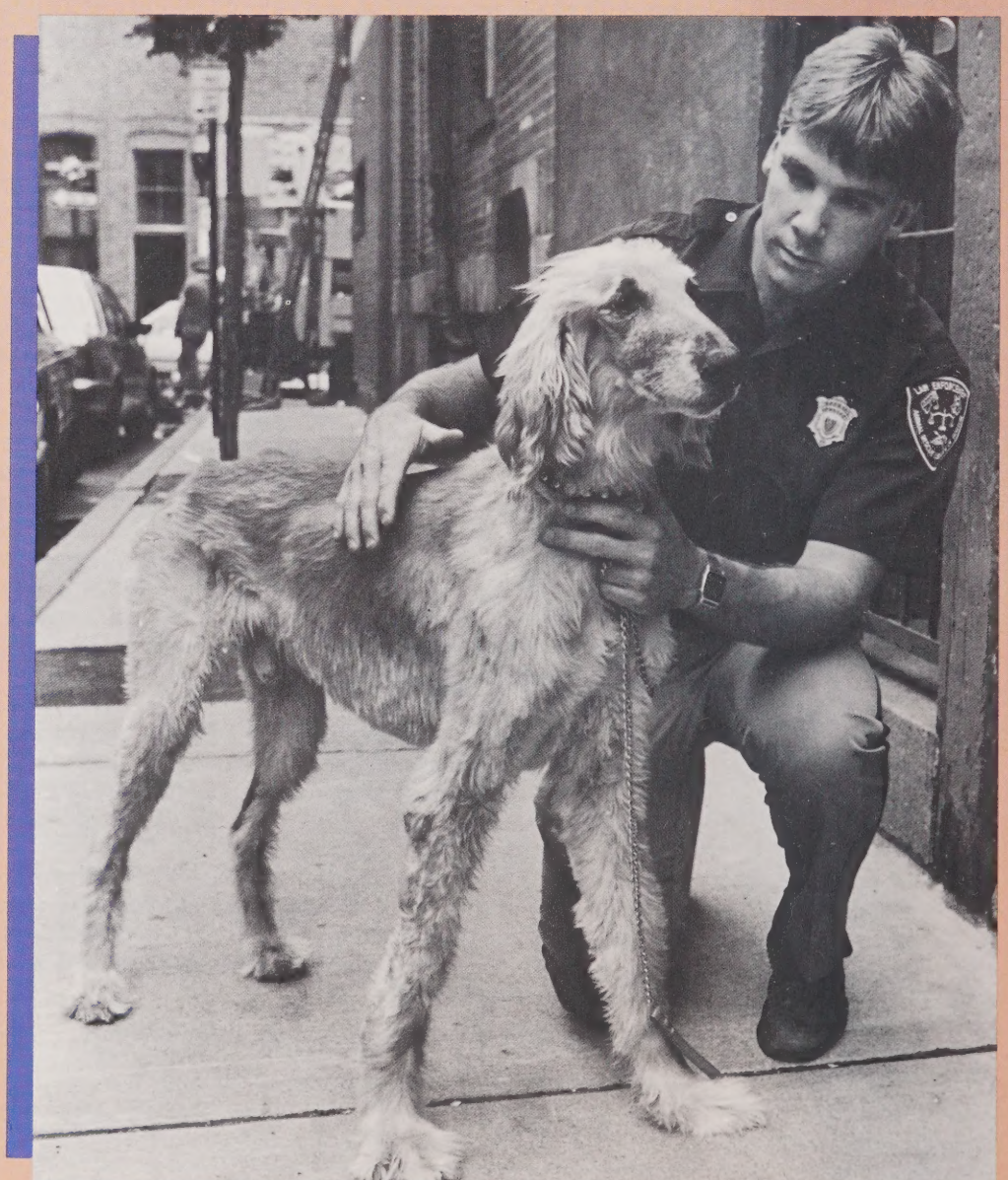
1991 ANNUAL MEETING

Members and friends attending the League's 92nd annual meeting held Wednesday, April 24, at League headquarters had an opportunity to learn about humane efforts to save the Gulf War's animal victims, and also met some heroes closer to home who received special recognition at the meeting.

John C. Hatch, chairman of the board, welcomed those attending and introduced League president Arthur G. Slade, who presented the League's Certificates of Appreciation to Assistant District Attorney Michael J. Pomarole; to John C. Walsh, assistant director general of the World Society for the Protection of Animals; and to a two-year-old scene-stealer named "Boo," a Lhasa Apso whose intelligence and personality made her the uncontested star of the show.

Boo's ability to attract attention saved the lives of her owners in the early morning hours of March 30, 1990 when a fire broke out at the home of Frank Perullo, Sr. and Frank Perullo, Jr. of Stoneham. Boo barked continually until she was able to awaken her family, all of whom escaped unharmed. The dog's certificate was awarded "in recognition of the lifesaving action Boo took." Several family members were on hand to applaud Boo, who joined in by barking at all the appropriate places.

Assistant District Attorney Micael J. Pomarole's award came as a total surprise. He had been tricked into coming to the meeting under



Assistant District Attorney Michael Pomorole was honored for his diligent prosecution of the man who beat "Benji," the Afghan hound shown here with Edward Powers.

false pretenses by his boss, District Attorney Newman Flanagan, who read the citation given "in recognition of the dedication and humane concern he demonstrated during his diligent prosecution of two League law enforcement cases involving cruelty to animal charges, " 'Anastasia' the pony, and 'Benji,' the 12-year-old Afghan hound."

"Without the support of the District Attorney's office, all of the League's work in investigating such cruelty cases as these would come to naught," said League president Arthur Slade. Accepting his certificate, the award recipient said, "When I look back on the cases I have worked on with the League, I am struck by what an incredibly committed group of people you have here. I am honored, and very surprised."

The third Certificate of Appreciation was accepted by Priscilla McMullen, administrator of the Boston office of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), on behalf of John C. Walsh who has brought the plight of the animals suffering in Kuwait to the attention of the world. "John cannot be here today because he is still in Kuwait, doing what he does best — providing relief to animals," she said. The certificate was presented "in recognition of his dedicated efforts to relieve the suffering of animals in the Kuwait National Zoo, and the wildlife casualties of the oil spill during the war against Iraq."

The efforts to assess and address these tragic consequences of the war were the subject of the main address by guest speaker John Loretz, media and development officer in WSPA's Western Hemisphere office in Boston. He thanked League members for their support of these rescue efforts which they are a part of by virtue of the League's role as a member organization of WSPA.

Accompanied by graphic color slides illustrating the devastation, Loretz's presentation highlighted four different major areas of concern: the oil spill's impact on marine birds and other wildlife; the enormous toxic effect of the pollution resulting from the oil fires set at the end of the war; the suffering of domestic animals in Kuwait; and the tragic situation discovered at the Kuwait National Zoo, where two days after Iraq was driven from Kuwait, the arriving WSPA team found deplorable conditions and evidence of widespread atrocities. The details of the guest speaker's report form the basis for the article on the next page titled, "The Gulf War's Animal Victims."

In his president's report, Arthur Slade noted that in addition to finding homes for over 6300 animals, and providing health care for 13% more pets than the previous year, the League also treated and released over 400 injured wildlife creatures, and responded to 976 neglect and abuse complaints. "I am also happy to report a successful conclusion to the Brian Watson case," he said. Mr. Watson was recently apprehended and sentenced to one year in prison for cruelty to animals (see story on page 14). Mr. Slade noted that, in delivering the sentence, the judge stated: "My only regret is that the maximum sentence is one year — five years would be more appropriate in this case."

President Slade expressed special thanks to the League's 32,000 supporters, and "for the support we receive from a very hardworking staff, and a dedicated board of directors. We are very grateful for the good things you do."

District Attorney Newman Flanagan congratulates Assistant District Attorney Michael J. Pomorole.

Canine hero "Boo" accepts his award from Arthur G. Slade, League president, with a little help from owner Frank Perullo, Jr.

The Gulf War's Animal Victims

The war in the Gulf may be over, but the battle to save the war's animal victims will take years, and it may be decades before the environmental damage is repaired, John Loretz told those attending the League's annual meeting.

The guest speaker, who is media and development officer at the Western Hemisphere office of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) in Boston, described four distinct problems that are the focus of WSPA's rescue efforts in the Gulf, spearheaded by John C. Walsh, WSPA's assistant director general. They are the impact of the oil spills on marine birds and other wildlife; the enormous toxic effect of the oil fires set at the end of the war; the suffering of the domestic animals in Kuwait; and the deplorable conditions at the Kuwait National Zoo.

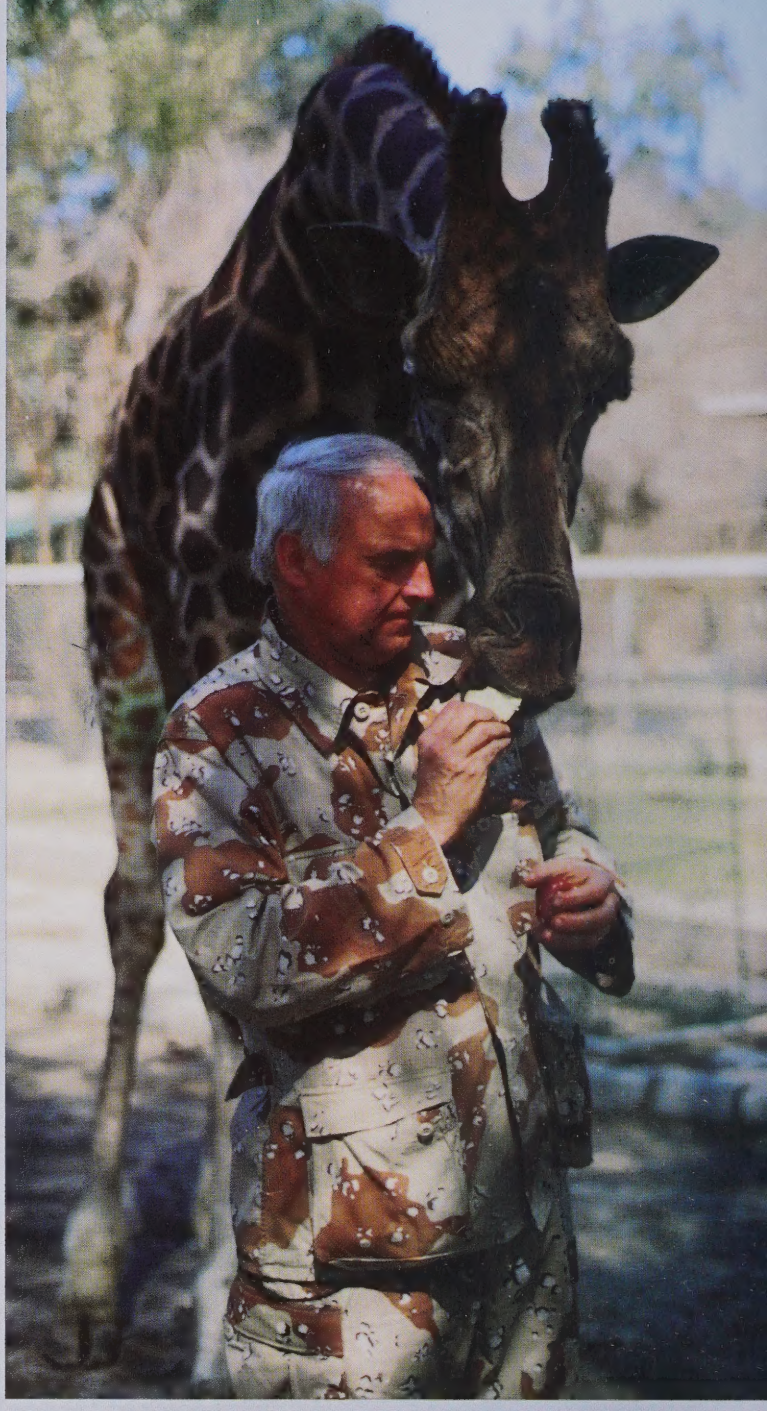
WSPA first began receiving reports as early as last September that the Iraqui military had set up a base at the Kuwait National Zoo and animals were being killed, but these rumors could not be verified for months. When the allied troops were first deployed in Saudi Arabia, WSPA heard that some camels had been killed in allied maneuvers. Walsh wrote to General Norman Schwarzkopf and was heartened to receive an immediate assurance that maneuvers would be canceled in the future if any camels were in the area. "Our forces here will take every precaution to prevent occurrences of this type," the general wrote back.

Walsh arrived in Saudi Arabia on February 11, at the invitation of that country's National Commission on Wildlife Conservation and Development to help them develop a wildlife rescue plan. He set up base at the coastal city of Jubayl and with some volunteers began exploring the shoreline to assess damage to birds in the area.

Presenting some background information on Gulf ecology to League members, Loretz explained: "There are about 3,650 species of animals in the area, including about 50 that are near extinction. The exchange rate of water in the Gulf — already polluted by oil spills in the Iran-Iraq war — is slow, taking about two to three years. The oil just sits there, and forms sludge balls," he said, illustrating his point with slides.

Within two weeks, Walsh and his team had brought more than 700 oil-soaked birds to a cleaning center set up by England's Royal Society for the Protection of Animals, but thousands more had died on the beaches. "The greatest victims of the oil spill so far have been the birds," Walsh wrote to WSPA's Boston office on February 18. "To date, four species have made up the bulk of the birds collected. These include the black-necked grebe, the great crested grebe, the common cormorant, and the Socorra cormorant. We also have two gulls and a grey heron. . . . . It is expected that many turtles are now being affected, as a southern portion of the oil slick is in a major feeding area. The turtles will be exposed to the oil for an extended period of time and it will affect them through inhalation, ingestion, and direct contact."

By April 1, Loretz said, Walsh had brought almost 1200 birds to the cleaning center. "The mortality rate was very high, more than 700 died." In an interview with the *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, Walsh explained: "The main problem is that the birds swallow oil in their efforts to clean themselves; autopsies have revealed hard balls of oil, sand and feathers in their stomachs. Also, a coating of oil destroys the water repellence of the birds' feathers, and some of them actually freeze to death."



Walsh feeds surviving giraffe at Kuwait Zoo. Only 29 animals were found alive at the zoo when Walsh made his first inspection on March 2.

The official estimate is that 1 to 1½ million barrels of oil have been spilled in the Gulf, but WSPA officials call this figure very conservative. "We suspect it is probably closer to 5 million barrels," Loretz said.

Meanwhile, other birds have died as a result of soot ingestion from the oil fires. In some, hemalytic anemia has been detected, leading to fears that similar symptoms may develop in other species. "If it is happening to animals, then it can also happen to people," the speaker cautioned. "This may indicate a serious public health problem to come."

WSPA found a large number of camels, livestock and domestic animals abandoned, wandering around seriously dehydrated and starving. They estimate that only 2500 dairy cows are left from a population of 15,000; only 2,000 camels survive where there were once 10,000; and only about 500 horses remain of an estimated 3,000.

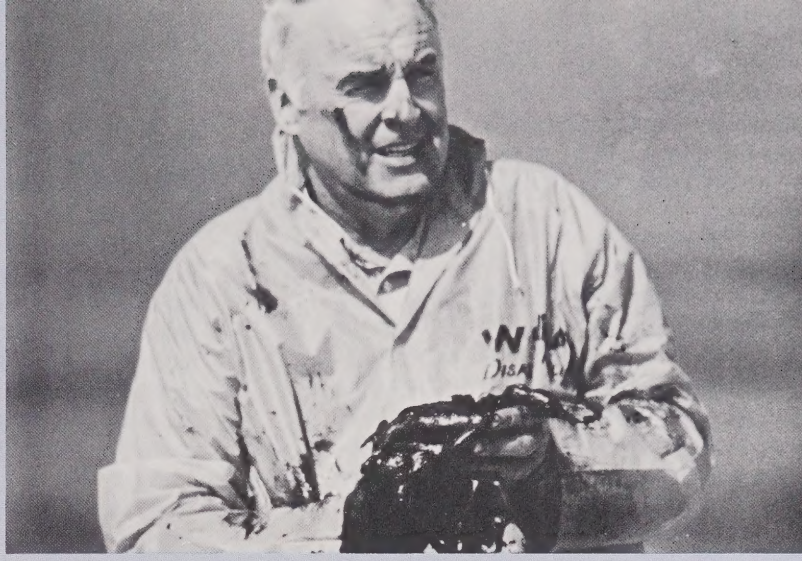
WSPA mobilized offices in Toronto, London, and Boston to get feed transported to Kuwait for the starving animals. "It was nearly impossible at first, because of so much human suffering," Loretz stated. "It's difficult to make a case for feeding the animals, when people are starving. We heard stories of people taking the animal feed for their children." Eventually, some 20 tons of feed arrived in the country and were distributed by military veterinarians.

On March 2, two days after the Iraquis were driven out of Kuwait, Walsh arrived at the Kuwait National Zoo to find only 29 animals left out of what had been a population of over 400. An elephant, a giraffe, five African lions, a camel, two hippos, two water buffalo, a Scotch Highland steer, three Syrian brown bears, and seven monkeys were among the survivors.

"Conditions at the zoo are deplorable," Walsh reported to WSPA. "Many cages contain dead animals that I learned were shot by soldiers during the early days of the occupation. Some animals were killed immediately; others were wounded and died slowly. . . . The elephant has a large swelling on the right shoulder where the bullet entered. . . . One of the bears has a leg wound. . . . A rhesus monkey, which an eyewitness says was shot by an Iraqui three-star general, was dragging a broken leg."

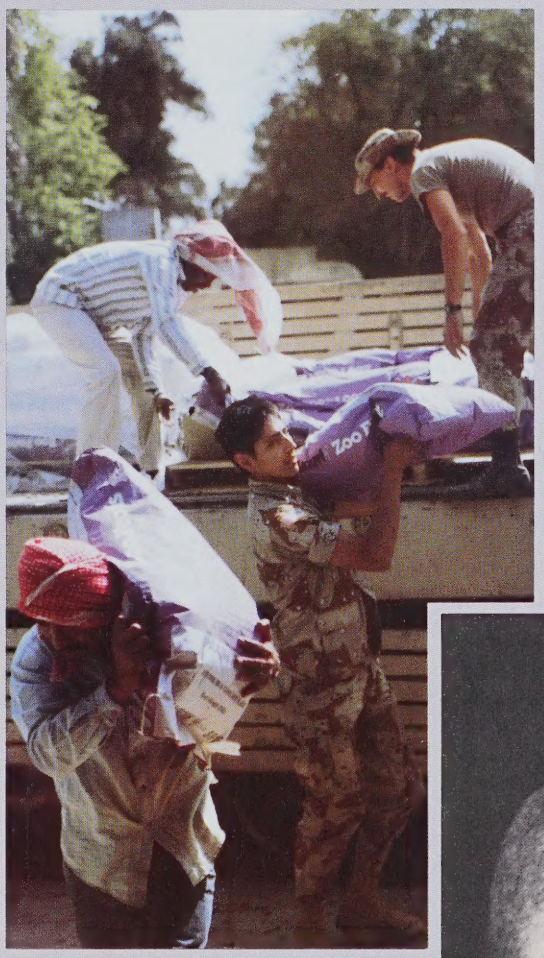
"Despite this tragedy, the zoo has been one of our best success stories," Loretz told ARL members. "No more animals have died, and two monkeys have given birth. Other animals that had been confiscated by local people — some to protect them and some to sell them — have been returned." Conditions at the zoo have been stabilized, and some local people were hired by WSPA for the clean-up effort, including two Kuwaiti brothers who tried to care for the animals during the occupation. "Local people are now bringing their animals to the veterinarians at the zoo, which is operating like an animal clinic," Loretz noted.

Walsh arrived back in Boston at the end of May, but the long-term recovery efforts will continue for years to come. The Kuwait National Zoo is once again being administered by the local government, and the food supplies collected by WSPA have been turned over to the Kuwait Ministry of Agriculture for distribution to the animals. WSPA is continuing to work with the Saudi government on oil-spill relief efforts, and a field staff member from WSPA's London office remains on the scene.



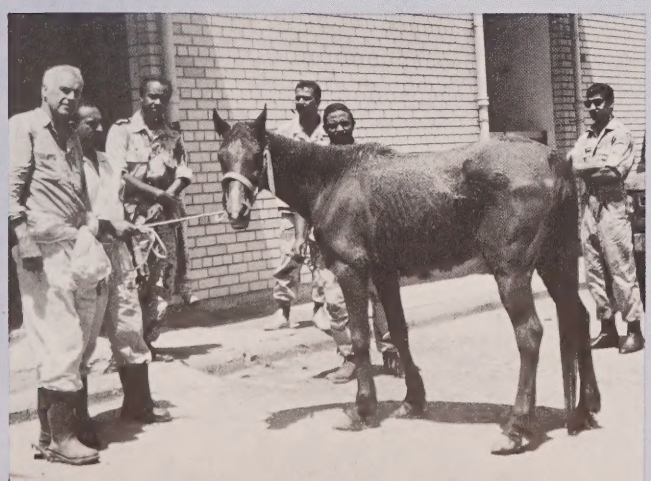
WSPA's John Walsh rescues oil-soaked grebe from contaminated waters of Persian Gulf, in which thousands of marine birds died.

Photos courtesy of World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)



Volunteers unload sacks of zoo feed shipped to Kuwait by WSPA offices around the world. The pelletized food was also given to livestock and other abandoned animals starving throughout Kuwait.

Vervet monkey at Kuwait Zoo gave birth several days after Iraqi troops left Kuwait.



One of Walsh's last acts before leaving Kuwait was to rescue four thoroughbred horses from an estate in the middle of the burning Burgan oil fields. The horses, owned by the Emir of Kuwait, were covered with oil and had survived by eating oil-soaked vegetation.

Early Spay & Neuter:

A New Approach to Pet Overpopulation Problems

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

Americans love their pets, or so they think. Each year, millions of dollars are spent on pet food, toys, pet sitters, kennels, and expensive gadgets and gimmicks designed to amuse our canine and feline friends. Yet at the same time we also either passively allow — or actively contribute to — a situation that causes millions of unwanted animals to be euthanized each year in the United States.

Over the years, humane organizations have vigorously tried to reduce the unwanted pet population by a number of different approaches. These include animal control programs to reduce the number of strays, lost and found services, aggressive pet adoption promotions, humane education programs to persuade pet owners of the merits of spaying and neutering, spaying and neutering of all animals adopted over the age of six or seven months, and adoption contracts incorporating financial incentives for those who adopt younger animals to bring them back for neutering at the appropriate age.

Clearly, these efforts have not been enough. Each year, humane organizations unwittingly release for adoption enough potential breeding animals to repopulate their shelters very quickly. Compliance with adoption spay and neuter contracts averages 50 to 60% at most shelters, and can go as low as 40%. The fact that one unspayed cat — allowed to wander and reproduce — can create as many as 59,000 descendants in a matter of five short years clearly illustrates the magnitude of the problem.

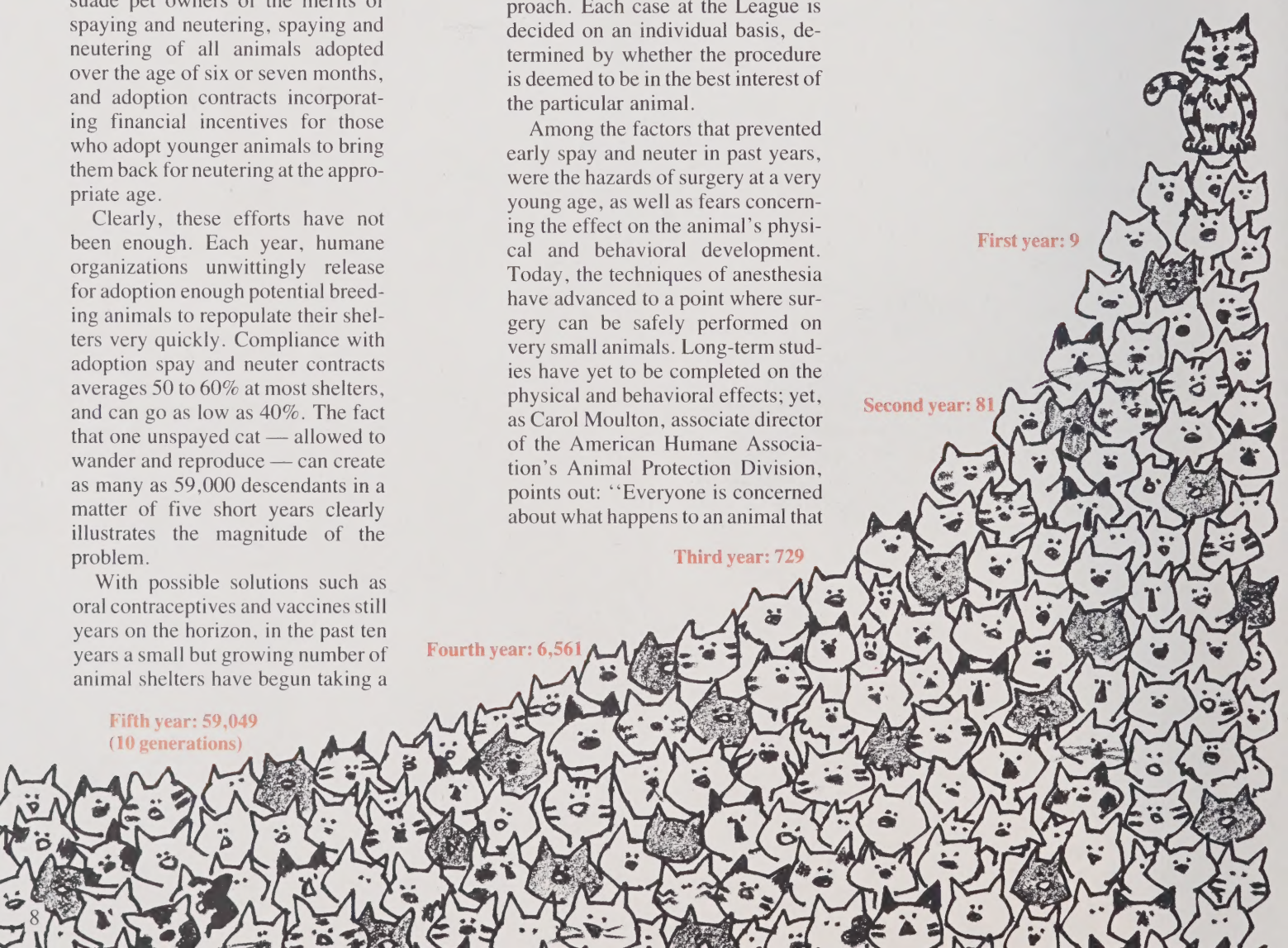
With possible solutions such as oral contraceptives and vaccines still years on the horizon, in the past ten years a small but growing number of animal shelters have begun taking a new approach to this problem by spaying and neutering very young animals prior to adoption. Instead of waiting for the traditionally accepted age of six months, they have been performing the surgery at two or three months of age, or even as young as six weeks.

After attending a meeting of the American Humane Association convened last year to exchange information on the early spay and neuter program and its potential benefits and/or drawbacks, we decided to institute the program at the Animal Rescue League of Boston. In January, 1991, veterinarians at the League headquarters in Boston, and at our three branches, began neutering very young animals on a limited basis, joining more than 20 other humane organizations in the country that have already begun this approach. Each case at the League is decided on an individual basis, determined by whether the procedure is deemed to be in the best interest of the particular animal.

Among the factors that prevented early spay and neuter in past years, were the hazards of surgery at a very young age, as well as fears concerning the effect on the animal's physical and behavioral development. Today, the techniques of anesthesia have advanced to a point where surgery can be safely performed on very small animals. Long-term studies have yet to be completed on the physical and behavioral effects; yet, as Carol Moulton, associate director of the American Humane Association's Animal Protection Division, points out: "Everyone is concerned about what happens to an animal that is neutered at 6 weeks, but there really were never any studies on what happens to one at 6 months. That age was just sort of chosen at random." The American Humane Association is calling for long-term follow-up studies, has issued guidelines for shelters undertaking the approach, and will act as a clearing house to gather and disseminate what information is available.

Short-term studies have tended to confirm the League's experience, that there is essentially no significant difference in early vs. later neutering, other than the improved ability of the shelter to control the breeding potential of its adopted population.

One such study, a 15-month investigation of dogs neutered at an early age conducted by Katherine R. Salmeri, D.V.M., and Mark S. Bloomberg, D.V.M. at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, focused on the biological and behavioral effects of early spaying and neutering. From this preliminary study, they concluded: "It



looks as though the present practice of neutering dogs at 7 months of age is not much different from neutering dogs as early as 7 weeks of age . . . From our study, we feel that neutering at adoption would be feasible for organizations trying to combat the pet overpopulation problem.''

A long time proponent of early spay and neuter, Florida veterinarian Dr. Leo Lieberman, is currently conducting a follow-up study of how early spay and neuter has affected animals adopted from the Southern Oregon Humane Society, which instituted the program over ten years ago. Speaking at a conference on cat and dog overpopulation at the New York State Humane Association, Dr. Lieberman pointed out: ''The American Veterinary Medical Association's animal welfare committee in 1985 advocated performing neuter surgery on farm animals as early as possible . . . in pigs, it's usually three to five days after birth. In calves, it's usually done within a week after birth.''

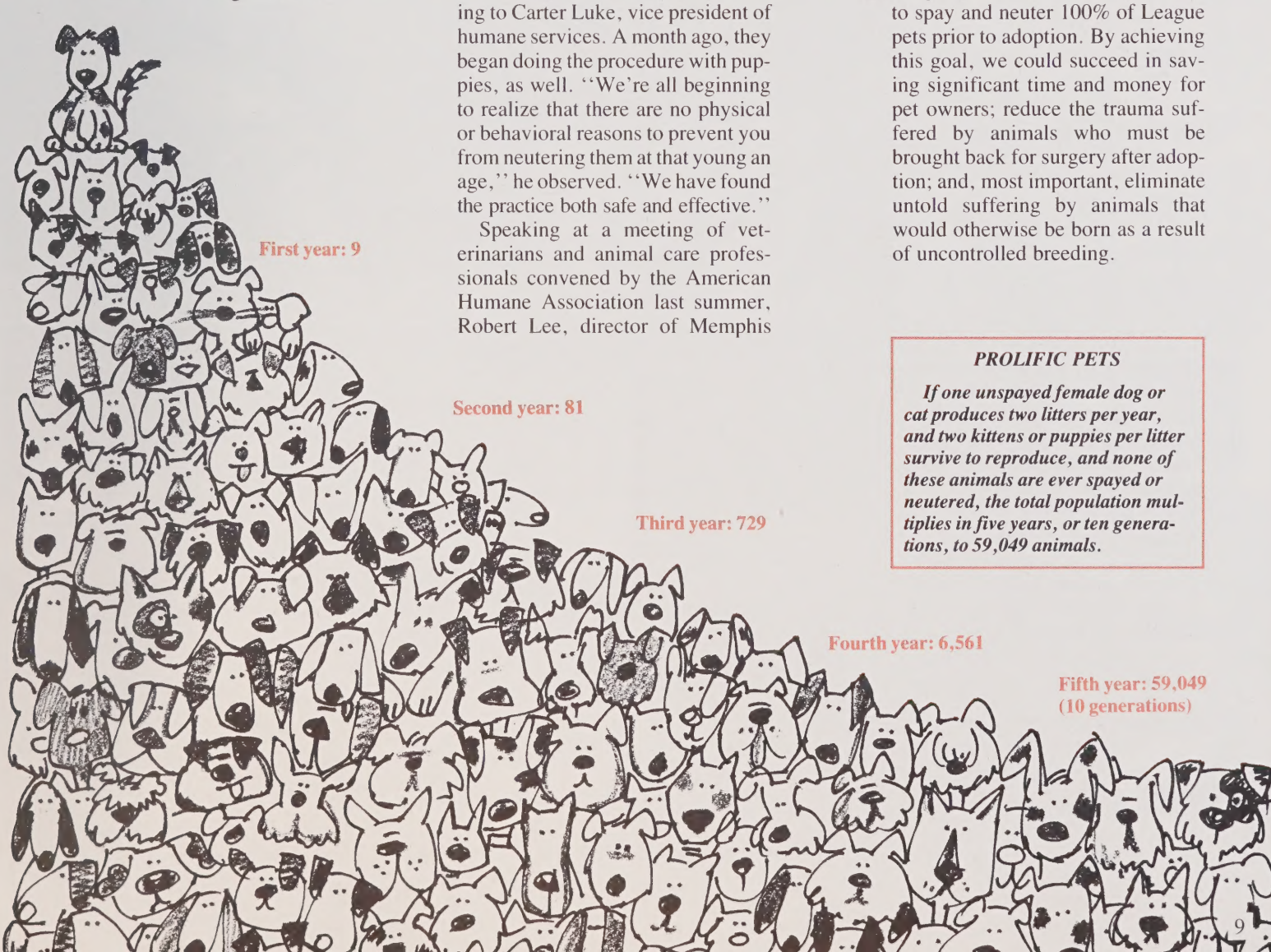
The tradition of doing neuter surgery at six months on dogs and cats started back in the 1920s, he noted, ''at a time when there was no suitable anesthetic for cats, and the anesthesia for dogs was less than adequate.'' The tradition just persisted, despite advances in surgical and anesthesia techniques. The New York State Humane Association has since endorsed and encouraged the concept of early spay and neuter, as has the ASPCA of New York City.

At the Angell Memorial Hospital in Boston, operated by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, veterinarians during the past year have performed early spay and neuter surgery on approximately 100 kittens, some as young as six or seven weeks. These were primarily adoption shelter animals, but also included a few pets whose owners requested the surgery. ''Our veterinarians have been focussing on refining anesthesia techniques and developing approaches better suited to young animals with immature heart, lungs and kidneys,'' according to Carter Luke, vice president of humane services. A month ago, they began doing the procedure with puppies, as well. ''We're all beginning to realize that there are no physical or behavioral reasons to prevent you from neutering them at that young an age,'' he observed. ''We have found the practice both safe and effective.''

Speaking at a meeting of veterinarians and animal care professionals convened by the American Humane Association last summer, Robert Lee, director of Memphis Animal Control and president of the National Animal Control Association, spoke about his experience with early spay and neuter, involving approximately 3,000 animals under 6 months of age, over a period of 18 months. ''The return to shelter rate decreased from 20% to 2% after the procedure was implemented,'' he said, presumably due to increased socialization by the animals.

The American Humane Association has called for more follow-up studies of the procedure, and has proposed a tattoo registry system to identify animals that have been neutered prior to puberty. This would serve two purposes: first, it would protect animals from being subjected to a second spay or neuter operation if they are seen by a veterinarian who is unaware of their medical history; second, it would aid in tracking these animals over time to evaluate the physical and behavioral effects.

Based on our initial experience at the League, we hope to proceed with the program and ultimately be able to spay and neuter 100% of League pets prior to adoption. By achieving this goal, we could succeed in saving significant time and money for pet owners; reduce the trauma suffered by animals who must be brought back for surgery after adoption; and, most important, eliminate untold suffering by animals that would otherwise be born as a result of uncontrolled breeding.



PROLIFIC PETS

If one unspayed female dog or cat produces two litters per year, and two kittens or puppies per litter survive to reproduce, and none of these animals are ever spayed or neutered, the total population multiplies in five years, or ten generations, to 59,049 animals.

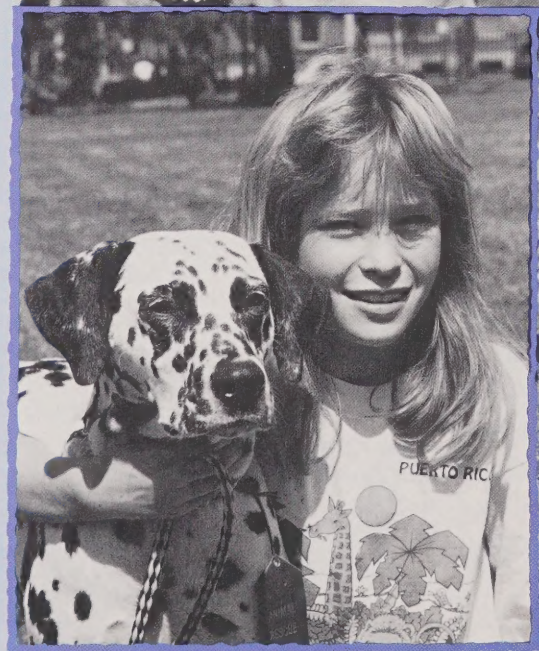
PET APPRECIATION DAY

The League celebrated Be Kind to Animals Week this year with two festive events: Pet Appreciation Day on Boston Common, Saturday, May 11, featuring a Pet Show for children, and a Blessing of the Animals; and an Open House at League headquarters on Sunday, May 5. Here are some scenes:

Best of Show winner "Tony" clowns around while owner, Meghan Finn, 13, holds his trophy. That's Sale ager Jim Stasio under the wig.

"Penny," the top prize winning puppy, gets a hug from owner Matthew Wheeler, 6.

Donna Giancola and her sheep dog "Shambhala" won the owner-pet look alike contest and that's no shaggy dog story!



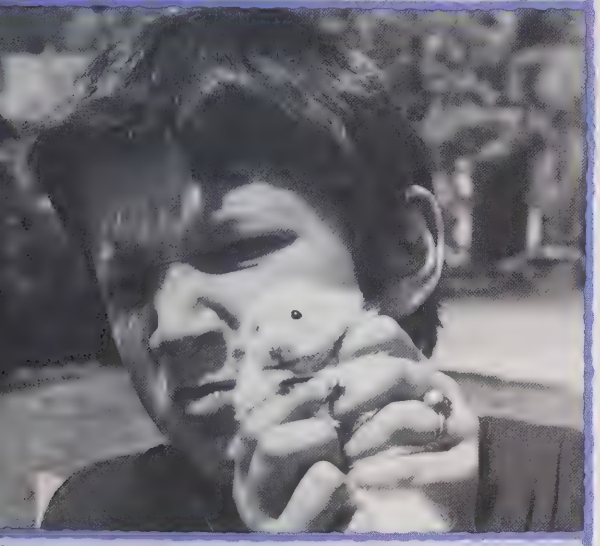
Marianna Popiel, 12, and her best pal "Kiki," who won second prize in the adult dog category.

A weary contestant pauses between rounds for a cool drink.

OPEN HOUSE

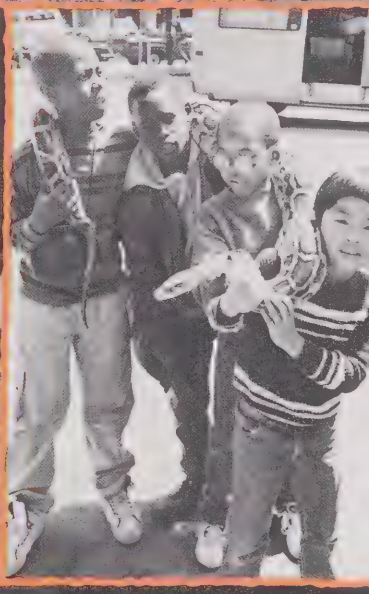
The open house celebration featured shelter tours, educational exhibits, live animal demonstrations and refreshments. Below, neighborhood youngsters get acquainted with farm animals at the petting zoo, and herpitologist Rick Stafford's guest, a Burmese python named "Ishtar," while (left, center) League public relations coordinator Terrie Neyland gets all wrapped up in her work. At bottom, Stephen Doherty of the New England Wildlife Center introduces a young guest to "Klack," a barred owl.

n man- *Rev. Rose Eddington of the Arlington Street Church delivers a blessing for the animals.*



hael Harris, 9, and "Skippy" won first prize in the mis-aneous category, and placed second in the look alike contest.

The top cat was "Samantha," relaxing here with owner Kimberly McDonald, 8.



A Veterinary Update

Timely Tips on Ticks

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

The arrival of summer means longer stretches of outdoor activities for humans and their animals, but it also signals the peak activity season for ticks which can transmit at least four dangerous diseases to pets and people. They are Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia, and erhlichiosis.

Of these, Lyme disease, transmitted by the bite of the deer tick, is now the most frequently reported tick-borne disease transmitted to people in the U.S., and the cause of the most concern in this area of the country.

Lyme disease is not transmitted to people by pets — the increased risk is caused by pets bringing ticks into areas of human activity. A few common sense precautions can reduce the risk of acquiring tick-transmitted diseases. Keep grassy areas around the house clipped short and apply insecticides to discourage tick infestation. Protect your pets with insecticide or tick repellant, following your veterinarian's directions. Dog owners who live in an area of high tick infestation may also wish to consult their veterinarians regarding the new canine Lyme disease vaccine.

Because disease transmission appears to require several hours of attachment, daily inspection and grooming of your pet is a most important precaution. Prompt removal of any attached ticks can prevent disease. It is very important that you remove ticks correctly. Use a fine pair of tweezers to grasp the tick as close as possible to its point of attachment, and exert gentle, but steady pressure to detach it.

Under no circumstances should anyone squeeze or crush a tick with bare fingers, because disease organisms can penetrate the skin, especially if the skin is scratched or cut. If you are removing a tick with your fingers, use a protective covering such as a tissue or a plastic bag. After removing a tick, wash hands and tick bite wounds with soap and water.

Although Lyme disease symptoms usually appear in people within several days of exposure, the disease can be extremely difficult to diagnose in animals because infected dogs and cats often do not show any signs of disease. In a study of canine Lyme disease, Linda A. Ross, D.V.M., associate professor of veterinary medicine at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, recently reported that "up to 50% of the canine population in endemic areas can test positive" but appear to be clinically normal. In addition, Dr. Ross reported, Borrelia burgdorferi, the organism which causes Lyme disease, has been isolated from the blood of 8% of clinically normal dogs living in an endemic area.

Caring for Potbellied Pigs

More than 8,000 miniature potbellied pigs are now kept as pets in the U.S., but many owners are not aware of their special needs. Potbellied pigs require a specialized commercial feed, fresh vegetables and dried fruit, and certain vitamin supplements. Young piglets can be prone to anemia, and should also be monitored for hypoglycemia. They need regular veterinary check ups, monitoring for worms, and vaccinations for swine diseases, gastroenteritis, parvovirus and other preventable infections.

Operation Search and Rescue

Photos by Carolyn Hine of the Dedham Transcript.

Near the Dedham/West Roxbury line, are acres of woods and swampy boglands. Late last summer, the League's Dedham branch received calls from people whose homes abut this undeveloped area, reporting that a wild dog was living in the woods, coming out only to make regular rounds of the neighborhood on trash day when he would pick up 30-40 lb. trash bags and drag them off into the swamp.

Though the dog had not threatened anyone and, in fact, would run away if anyone approached it, residents feared that it might be a threat to children in the neighborhood. A team from the Dedham shelter made several sweeps through the woods searching for the animal, but they had underestimated the dog's canny ability to elude pursuers. Even a humane Have-a-Heart trap baited with dog food lured only raccoons.

By now winter was approaching and the staff was afraid that the dog would not survive the coming bitter weather. Determined to save the dog, they devised an elaborate search and rescue operation that took several weeks to implement. First, they took steps to put the dog on a schedule. One neighbor agreed to put food out for him each night at 6 p.m., under a spotlight in his fenced backyard, with an open gate leading to the woods. Gradually, the dog began to turn up regularly, grabbing the food bowl in his mouth and bolting off with it into the woods. Tracking him there, agents discovered that he had beaten down an elaborate maze of paths through the heavy underbrush which were almost impossible for humans to navigate.

Maps were drawn up of the area and a team was assembled, consisting of League agents with areas of particular expertise in dog handling, the Dedham animal control officer, and a Dedham police officer. On the evening of January 9, law enforcement coordinator Alan Borgal, agents Terry Ober and Chris Wojtowicz, and Dedham branch manager Bob Walsh, equipped with a tranquilizer gun, hid in the garage, while Alan Cunningham acted as lookout on a glassed-in porch. When he spotted the dog entering the yard, agent Cunningham signaled the team in the garage. Walsh fired the tranquilizer gun, delivering a precalculated safe dose in a dart which entered the fleshy part of the dog's leg. Simultaneously, Terry Ober yanked a rope slamming the gate shut just as the dog tried to run through it. The dog then turned and broke through a wooden barricade, escaping once again into the woods. He was located about twenty minutes later, overcome by the tranquilizer.

The dog — a golden labrador retriever wearing a collar but no identification and weighing between 85 to 100 lbs. — was transported by ambulance to Goodband's Animal Hospital in Dedham, with Alan Cunningham riding in back with it to monitor its vital signs. At the hospital, Dr. David Chaplin removed the tranquilizer dart, administered precautionary antibiotics and examined the animal which was in good condition, and had been neutered. After the dog woke up, it was transferred to Bruce's Kennels next to the hospital, which is the Dedham town shelter for strays.

Frightened at first, the dog soon began approaching people and displaying a nice, friendly temperament. "We think that this was a lost or abandoned pet that had reverted to its wild instincts to survive, but quickly switched back to domesticated ways once it felt safe," Cunningham noted. Within a week, the dog was walking on a leash and sitting up on command. He was then taken by the Labrador Rescue Society, and placed in a home.

Branch manager Bob Walsh and agent Chris Wojtowicz place the dog on a stretcher (above) and (below) the team carries the animal to the ambulance for transport to the hospital. At bottom, Terry Ober, Bob Walsh and Alan Cunningham are on hand as the dog awakens.

Alan Cunningham carries the dog out of the swamp.

NEWSFRONT

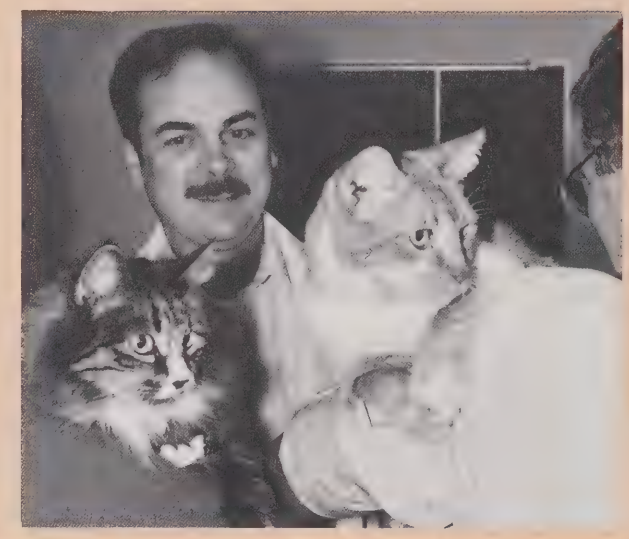
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

KEEPING "COOL"

Joe Light and his Animal Rescue League pet "Cool" are happy to have all their housing problems behind them. Joe Light, a handicapped veteran, was served an "intention to evict" notice in February stemming from his ownership of "Cool." The League, with the help of Greater Boston Legal Services' Glenna Wyman, worked with the Boston Housing Authority by citing the Boston Ordinance of 1988, Chapter 13 and were able to have the eviction notice reversed. Chapter 13 protects the elderly and handicapped in Boston City controlled and de-controlled housing by allowing for them to have pets. Joe Light is an exemplary pet owner and we are delighted at this outcome.

CATS AND DOGS GET TOGETHER AT LEAGUE RABIES CLINICS

A pair of somewhat fearful felines get in position for a rabies shot administered by Dr. Edward Leonard, while some look-a-like canine families patiently wait their turns at the rabies and licensing clinics held in early April at the League, in conjunction with Boston's Department of Health and Inspections Animal Control Unit.



EXOTIC ANIMAL OWNER BROUGHT TO JUSTICE

Readers who recall the League's extensive involvement in the case of Becky the camel, blinded from a beating by her owner, and scores of other exotic animals mistreated by the same man, will be happy to know that their former owner, Brian Watson, was finally apprehended and sentenced in April to one year in jail, the maximum sentence for cruelty to animals.

The League's investigation of Watson, who owned bears, an elephant, lions, tigers, and many other exotic animals which he rented out to fairs, parades and circuses, began in 1986 when inspectors responding to complaints found shocking conditions at his Essex farm, and widespread evidence of animal abuse. The League took custody of many of the animals, including Becky, and brought cruelty charges against their owner. In December, 1987, he was tried and found guilty of beating Becky the camel, but disappeared the day he was to be sentenced and was not located until this past April when authorities found him in Pennsylvania. Becky the camel now lives happily on her own half-acre at the Franklin Park Zoo.

NO FINICKY FELINES, PLEASE!

Staff at the League were surprised and delighted last month when famed chef Julia Child dropped by with her friend Ron Bredesen (left) to adopt a pet. League president Arthur G. Slade (right) greeted the celebrity chef and helped her select a one-year-old male mixed breed "tiger" cat, reputed to have a gourmet appetite!

RESCUED HAWK TAKES FLIGHT

Dr. George Myers, a veterinarian at the Danvers Animal Hospital, prepares to release a hawk that was nursed back to health after being injured when it flew into a building window. Among the anxious spectators at the hawk's release was James Stasio, manager of the League's Sheldon branch in Salem, which was involved in the rescue. The young hawk, a female with a four-foot wingspan, was picked up at the scene of its accident by League agent Kelly Turner and taken by animal ambulance to Dr. Myers, who is a licensed wildlife specialist. The bird had suffered a concussion affecting its balance and vision. After three weeks of care and recuperation, however, it was successfully released back into its natural environment, covering 50 yards on its first test flight.

A SUCCESSFUL SWAN DIVE

League agent Dawn Lee carries a swan that was nursed back to health to the dock in Brewster where, a minute later, it plunged into the water and swam away, presumably in search of its mate which was reportedly still in the area. The swan had been picked up in mid-March, weak, sickly and unable to walk or swim. For over a week, the staff at the Cape Cod Branch administered antibiotics, and tube fed the swan twice a day until gradually it began eating on its own and regained enough strength to be released.

AMERICAN HUMANE MOVIE REVIEW

The American Humane Association has released ratings for the following recent movies, based solely on the treatment of animals during the production.

Acceptable: AHA supervised the animal action during the production of these films to ensure humane treatment. Scenes appearing to abuse or endanger animals are simulated.

Beastmaster II: Through the Portal of Time, Film 21

Crooked Hearts, MGM/UA Productions

Curiosity Kills, Universal City Studios

Highway to Hell, Hemdale Releasing

The Howling VI, Live Home Video

Iron Maze, Iron Maze Productions

L. A. Story, Carolco Pictures

The Marrying Man, Buena Vista Pictures

The Rapture, New Line Cinema

Stepkids, New Line Cinema

Where Sleeping Dogs Lie, Sleeping Dogs Production

Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken, Pegasus Productions

Believed Acceptable: AHA did not supervise the filming of animal action in these movies. However, after screening, script review or consultation with the production company, American Humane concluded that no animals were abused or endangered.

Don't Tell Mom, the Babysitter's Dead, Warner Bro. Inc.

Out for Justice, Warner Bros. Inc.

Shogun Mayeda, Mayeda Productions Inc.

Spirit of the Eagle, Shapiro Glickenhaus Ent.

NEW BOOKS

The Cat in Photography, by Sally Eauclaire. A circa 1940 photo of a gentleman bringing his cat to the Animal Rescue League's Boston clinic is among the feline portraits presented in this collection of cat photography by prestigious, as well as unknown photographers. Little Brown Co., $29.95.

Animals in the Family: Tales of Our Household Menagerie, by Edith Sisson. This collection of tales of the many creatures cared for at the Sisson farm in Concord, Massachusetts offers perceptive insights into animal care and behavior. League president Arthur G. Slade, one of the book's reviewers, described it as "a wonderfully bright and sensitive expression of affection for animals by a lady who truly enjoys the world around her . . . She has a strong sense of the needs and welfare of a great variety of creatures, both domestic and wild . . . the book's greatest asset is the love and appreciation for animals that it creates in the mind of the reader." Globe Pequot Press, $11.95.

Summer Fun

By Edward J. Powers

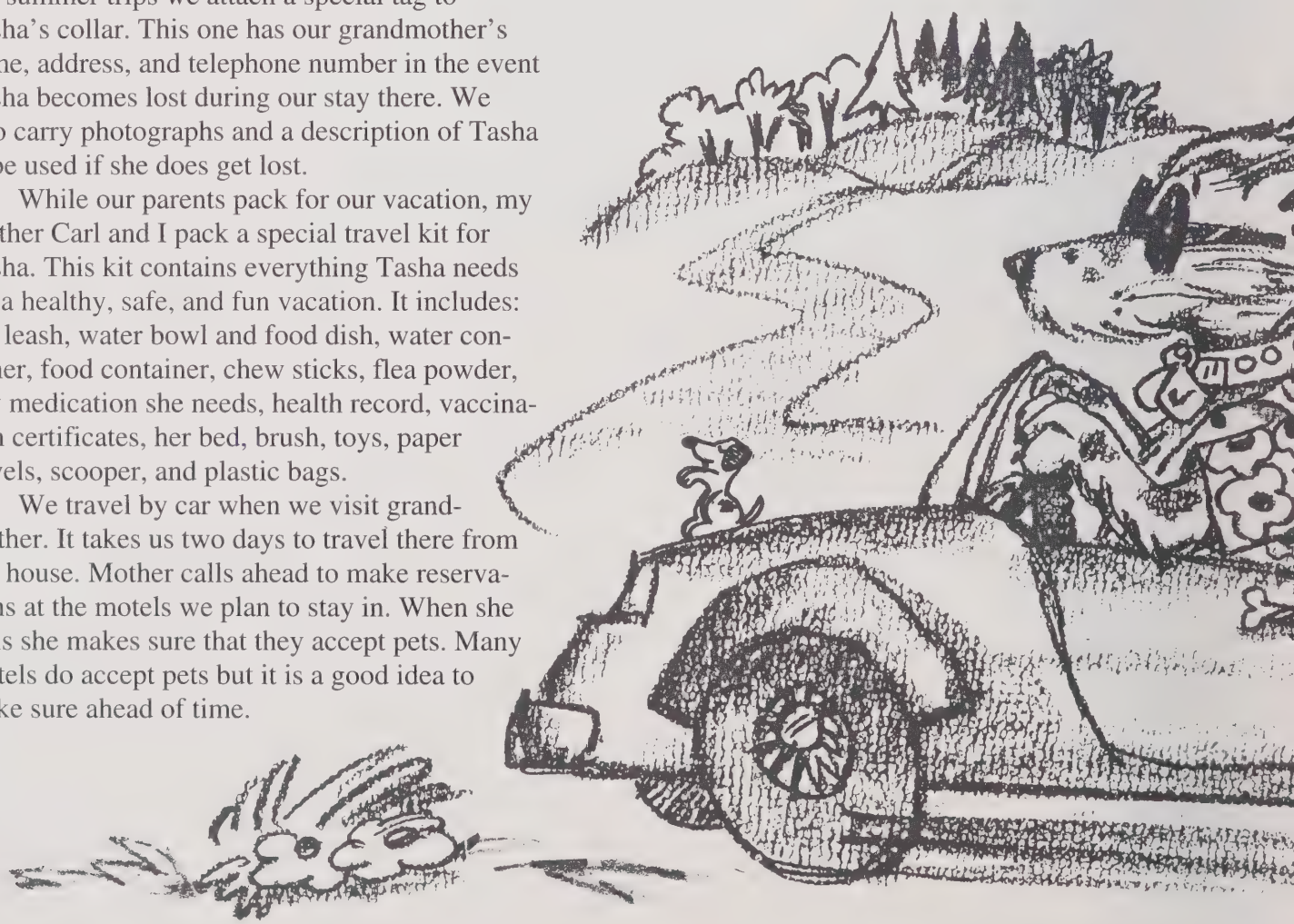
Every summer our family visits our grandparents for a two-week vacation. We always take our dog "Tasha" with us. Tasha is a member of our family and leaving her at home would be like leaving my brother or sister behind.

Before we leave, we take Tasha to the veterinarian for a check-up. The veterinarian makes sure that Tasha is in good health and up-to-date on her **vaccinations.** We also make sure that Tasha is wearing her collar with all three of her tags: license, rabies, and identification tag. The identification tag has Tasha's name as well as our family name, address and telephone number. For our summer trips we attach a special tag to Tasha's collar. This one has our grandmother's name, address, and telephone number in the event Tasha becomes lost during our stay there. We also carry photographs and a description of Tasha to be used if she does get lost.

While our parents pack for our vacation, my brother Carl and I pack a special travel kit for Tasha. This kit contains everything Tasha needs for a healthy, safe, and fun vacation. It includes: her leash, water bowl and food dish, water container, food container, chew sticks, flea powder, any medication she needs, health record, vaccination certificates, her bed, brush, toys, paper towels, scooper, and plastic bags.

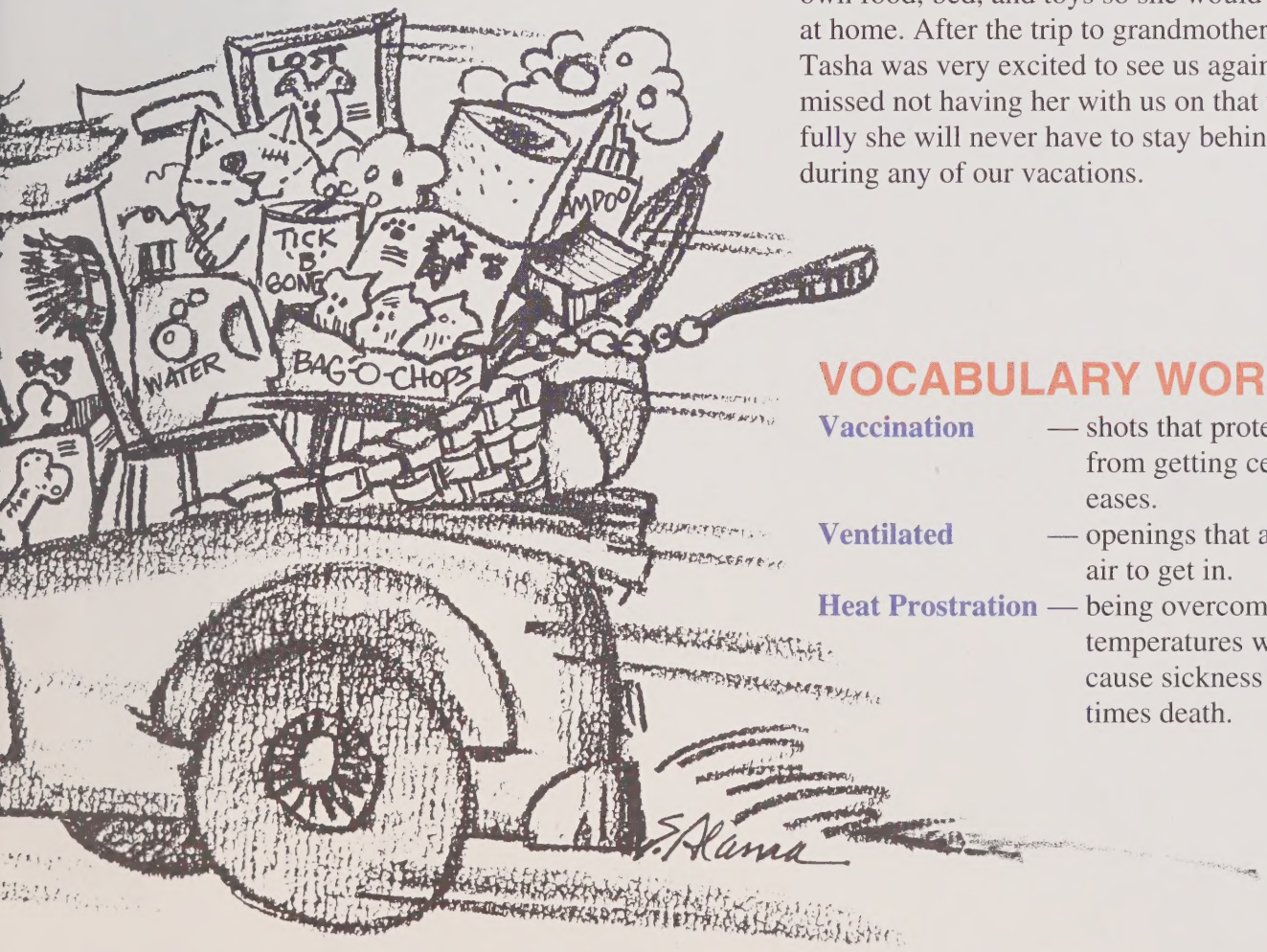
We travel by car when we visit grandmother. It takes us two days to travel there from our house. Mother calls ahead to make reservations at the motels we plan to stay in. When she calls she makes sure that they accept pets. Many motels do accept pets but it is a good idea to make sure ahead of time.

Even though Tasha is well-trained we never leave her alone in the motel room. She could become frightened in the unfamiliar room and howl or bark, disturbing other guests. She may even chew on the motel furniture. Because Tasha needs daily exercise, my brother Carl, my sister Clair and I take turns walking her outside. We carry the scooper and plastic bags on our walks so that we won't leave behind a mess for someone to step in. When we check-out of the motel in the morning, we always make sure the room is clean so Tasha and other pets will always be welcome there in the future.



While driving, we keep Tasha in a pet carrier. This is a medium-sized, well-**ventilated** case for traveling pets. Dad says it is safer for Tasha and she seems to like the security it gives her. When we stop for lunch our family likes to have take-out food so we can find a quiet, grassy spot to picnic at. This gives us a chance to stretch our legs and to take Tasha out for a walk and let her go to the bathroom. We would never leave Tasha in the car on a warm day because the car can heat up like an oven in warm temperatures. Tasha could suffer from **heat prostration** which would make her very sick. If animals get too hot they can even die. We make sure that Tasha has a nice shady area to rest in and we give her a cool drink of water while we eat.

During one of our summer vacations we had to leave Tasha behind because our grandmother had a guest who was allergic to dogs. We have some friends who watch Tasha when we take short trips, but they were going out of town at the same time our vacation was planned. We decided to leave her in a boarding kennel. We asked our veterinarian for a list of good kennels and then we went to visit them. We chose the kennel that allowed us to see the area Tasha would be staying in. The kennel owners also let us bring Tasha's own food, bed, and toys so she would feel more at home. After the trip to grandmother's house Tasha was very excited to see us again. We missed not having her with us on that trip. Hopefully she will never have to stay behind again during any of our vacations.



VOCABULARY WORDS

Vaccination — shots that protect your pet from getting certain diseases.

Ventilated — openings that allow fresh air to get in.

Heat Prostration — being overcome by high temperatures which can cause sickness and sometimes death.

PETS IN THE PICTURE

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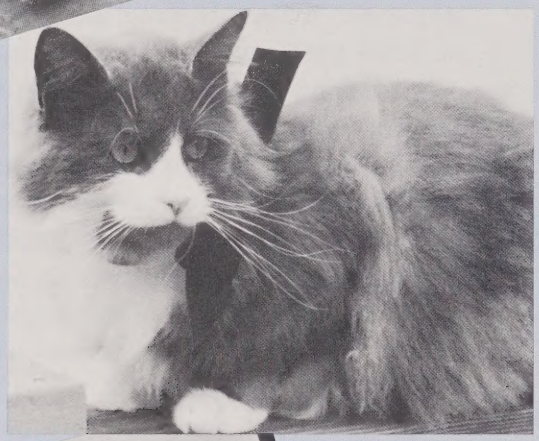

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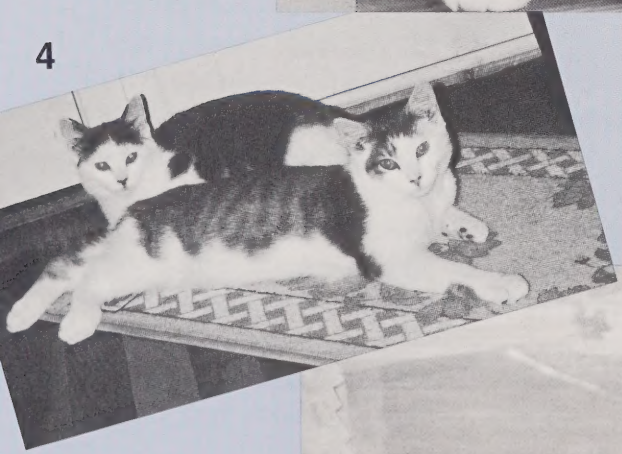

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1 "Jasper" and "Timothy" are "wonderful pets and very good friends," according to Helen Herzog of Waban who adopted Jasper (the tiger at left) in 1989, and Timothy (black and white) in 1985.

2 Bob and Rose Galvin of West Roxbury forward a message from their new pet "Sandy," a cocker spaniel recently adopted from the League. "I have settled nicely in my new home (I am the Boss!). I have a nice yard for myself . . . I even go riding in the car which I enjoy very much. Thank you for being there when I needed you."

3 " 'Cat' is now about one year old, and is the best cat we ever had," writes John Rabaglia of Burlington.

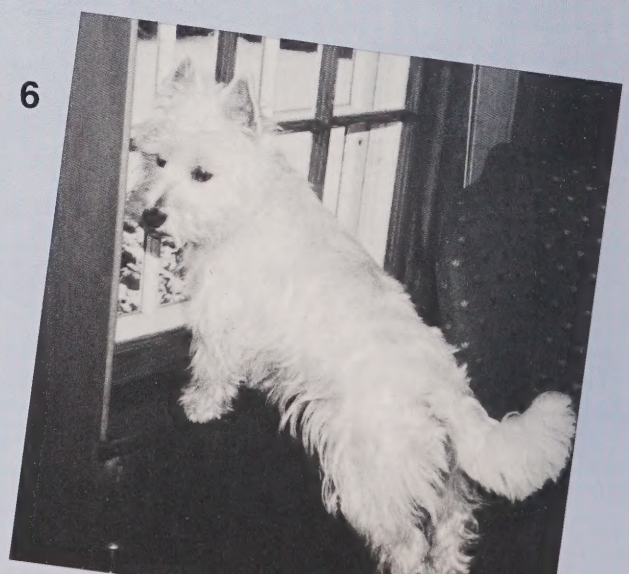
4 "Cortez" and "Rhiannon (Annie)," adopted by Beth Anne Lorina of Waltham, write: "We are litter mates and we are best friends . . . Our favorite game is fetch. We each have a favorite toy which we bring to our parents for them to throw. After batting the toy around (and shaking it to make sure it's dead), we bring it back and say 'meow.' The toy is thrown again, and we are off! We can play this game for hours. We understand our names, and the words 'breakfast time,' 'no,' and 'toy' (But we don't always listen to the word 'no!').

"Well, we'd better go — they don't like us typing on the Macintosh! Thanks for giving us a good start!"

Annie Cortez

5 Fred Paulette of Medway sends this photo of "Barney," who "thinks he's part cat — sits in the window all day like King Tut!" Fred's daughter Jo Anne adds: "He's the funniest dog with the most comical characteristics. He dances, talks, and cuddles, without a bit of training — just for attention! We are so happy with our adopted dog — best move we ever made!"

6 When Kenneth and Corinne Glazebrook adopted "Highland Jessie" she "needed a lot of love and attention, which she is now getting," they report. "She's the sweetest little dog in the world."



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LOST YOUR BEST FRIEND?

If you have recently lost a pet, it may help to share your feelings with people who understand your loss. Bereavement counseling is available at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, free of charge.

Support Groups or Individual Counseling

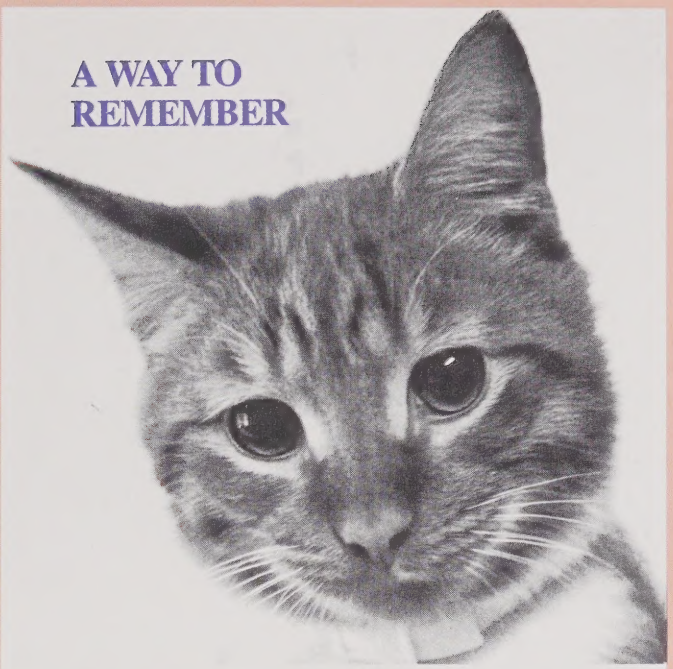
For information, or appointment, call Janice Bosworth at 426-9170, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Companion Animal Bereavement Program

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

10 Chandler Street • Boston, MA 02116

A WAY TO REMEMBER



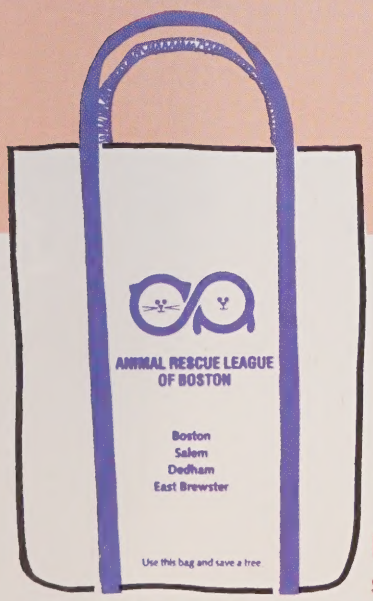
The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is **"Animal Rescue League of Boston,"** that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.

Animal Rescue League of Boston
10 Chandler Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116



SAVE A TREE

NEW ARL SHOPPING TOTE

Be a conscientious consumer and carry your groceries in this rugged white cotton duck tote bag, roomy (17″ × 11½″) with royal blue handles and League logo. Priced at $12, plus $3 for shipping and handling. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

ORDER FORM:

Please send me _____ shopping totes at $12 each, plus $3 shipping and handling.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $ _____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Mail to:
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265
Boston, MA 02117

"Skippy" enjoys the "dog days" in his own backyard.
Photo by Priscilla Foley of Framingham

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117